

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An air filter for use in vehicle air conditioning/handling systems includes a pleated filter material having a MERV of more than 1 and preferably of at least 8. The pleated filter material has a wire mesh disposed on its back or downward air flow side, and is encased within a frame for easy installation into air handling equipment. The frame has a relatively slim profile of less than 0.22 inches, and has relatively narrow frame rails of less than 0.625 inches in width so as to beneficially reduce the air pressure drop across the air filter when installed in the vehicle's air conditioning/handling equipment.